

EDITORIAL

Unfortunately, the meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club Council which was scheduled for August 20 had to be canceled. Arrangements for a later meeting have not yet been completed.

The following Nominating Committee has been appointed by President Ken-deigh to prepare a slate of Wilson Ornithological Club officers and Council members for 1946: Ernst Mayr, Chairman; W. J. Breckenridge; Ralph E. Yeatter. They will be glad to receive suggestions from members of the Club.

We wish to thank our loyal Life Member, Bernard W. Baker, for the generous gift which makes it possible to publish in color his handsome photograph of the Prairie Warbler that illustrates this issue.

OBITUARY

George Willett, ornithologist of the Los Angeles Museum and Vice-President of the American Ornithologists' Union, died August 2, 1945, at the age of sixty-six. His very extensive field experience in Alaska and California was the basis for many valuable reports, including detailed studies of the avifauna of southwestern California.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

The concluding part of H. Kirke Swann's "Monograph of the Birds of Prey" has just appeared. The first part was published in 1924, but Swann died in 1926 when only five additional parts had been printed. Alexander Wetmore generously agreed to undertake the completion of his friend's work, and publication was resumed. Many unforeseen difficulties had been overcome, and the concluding part was finally on the presses in September 1940, when German air raids completely destroyed the London printing establishment. Fortunately, the publishers, Wheldon and Wesley, had a set of corrected proofs stored outside London, and the text was gradually reset from this copy as war-time conditions permitted. Further delays resulted when new proofs, in transit between England and America, were twice lost at sea from enemy action. The completed work stands as a monument, not only to H. Kirke Swann, but to the courage and persistence of Alexander Wetmore and the publishers.

Jean Delacour and Ernst Mayr have completed for publication a manual of the birds of the Philippine Islands. The book is illustrated by Alexander Seidel and Earle L. Poole.

W. E. Clyde Todd and J. K. Doult of Carnegie Museum spent the spring and summer studying the birds and mammals of the tundra country on the east coast of Hudson Bay, north of Lake Minto.

William Beebe has just returned from six months' study of birds and other animals at the field station of the New York Zoological Society at Rancho Grande, Maracay, Venezuela.

Ralph Ellis has moved to Lawrence, Kansas, and has lent his remarkable ornithological library to the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History. The library (some 65,000 volumes) is perhaps the largest private collection of books on birds and mammals in the world. It includes some extremely valuable manuscripts, as well as sets of the original sketches and drawings of famous artists. Of particular interest are the large number of sketches by John Gould and 650 drawings of the birds of India by Thomas C. Jerdon.